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National Democratic Party (NDP)

1. Founding and purpose. The NDP was instigated by the Russians for the purpose of obtaining support for SED policies from those large segments of the Russian Zone population, particularly the nationalistic elements, which are opposed to the SED itself. To attract these groups into its organization the NDP does not demand any particular ideology of its members and proclaims its sole aim to be the promotion of Germany and German interests. Particular appeal is made to former Nazi party members, professional soldiers, etc. Over 50 percent of the members of the NDP formerly belonged to the NSDAP, and a considerable part of the rest are former officers and professional soldiers. However, the party's indifference toward ideology has led to a lack of party enthusiasm in the ranks of the members.
2. In bloc politics, the NDP supports the measures advocated by the SED, and hence the SED, backed by the NDP and the Bauernpartei, musters three votes against the two of the IDP-CDU factions. NDP leaders are for the most part former teachers in the anti-fascist schools in the USSR, and former SED members are to be found in many Kreisvorstände, in all Landesvorstände, and in the Hauptvorstand. The officials running the business end of the National Zeitungsverlag are all SED members and are in a position to keep the SED informed on NDP affairs. However, cooperation between the NDP and the SED is concealed as far as possible: NDP officials are forbidden to enter SED offices, and every communication with the SED has to be made by telephone (fernmündlich) to avoid an exchange of letters between the two parties.
3. The appearance of the NDP's organ, the National Zeitung, preceded the founding of the party. The paper was originally non-partisan, and, by Russian Zone standards, amazingly unbiased. From readers of this newspaper a committee was formed for establishing the party. To this committee, constituted in Halle, belonged among others Stadtbaureat Professor Heilmann, Regierungsrat Otto Rühle, and Max Schneider. The real objectives of the party were rather effectively concealed from the rank-and-file members.
4. Organization.

Chairman Dr. Lothar Bolz

Minister für Aufbau in the DDR; emigrated to Russia during Hitler's regime and taught in PW camps.

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Vice-chairman	Vincenz Müller	Former commander of the Third Artillery Corps, who was in Russian captivity; formerly chief of staff of the Grenzpolizei und Bereitschaften; appointed NDP political secretary February or March 1949.
Political Secretary	Heinrich Ho mann	Major in 83rd Artillery Regiment; member NDFD; disliked because of his arrogant dictatorial disposition.
Press & Radio	Vacant	
Business Chairman (Kaufmännischer Geschäftsführer)	Hru Brauns	Young, lively, imaginative, and clever person; wife is owner of the "Berolina-Reklame-Gesellschaft", through which most of the party propaganda is directed.
Economic (Wirtschaft) Div.	Hru Reinwarth	Was working for the NDP Kreisvorstand in Erfurt; for a short time was chief editor of the <u>National Zeitung</u> , succeeding Albrecht Albert.
Youth Section	Horst Kräter	Immediately upon his return from the Antifa School in the USSR in early 1949, was appointed to the NDP's Youth Section.
Women's Section	unknown to source	
25X1 Political Studies Section	Siegfried Dallmann	Previous history unknown
h. <u>Greater Berlin Landesverband</u>		
Chairman	Alfred Wunderlich	At present on leave of absence to serve as Staatssekretär in the GDR's Ministry of Industry .
Political Secretary (1)	Hru von Kienke	Former general, who came recently from Russia, and, according to a newspaper account, visited Dr. Holz and became a member of the NDP Landesvorstand Gross Berlin immediately after the conference.
25X1 Business Chairman	Klaus Schippan	For a time publications director of the <u>National Zeitung</u>
25X1 Press & Radio	Dr. Peeck (2)	At present deputy of Wunderlich. (3)
	Max Schneider (1)	One of the founders of the party; for a short time director of the NDP school in Luckow.

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Youth Section

E. Lonscher

Previous history unknown

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Women's Section

vacant.

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c. Saxony-Anhalt Landesverband

Chairman

Prof. Adolf Heilmann Stadtbeurat; replaced as chairman in August or September 1949 because of his attitude toward the D.K (4).

Dr. Otto Rühle

One of the founders of the NDP; Regierungsrat and later Oberregierungsrat in the Saxony-Anhalt government, but took a leave of absence from his official position to do party work; since early October a Doctor of Philosophy.

Political Secretary

Siegfried Kollercker

A good acquaintance of Rühle's from the USSR; because of a speech defect is hardly suitable for public gatherings.

Women's Section

Frau Rühle

Originally treasurer, but later relieved of this post because of her marital connection with the chairman.

Youth Section

Rolf Schneider

Former FDJ official in Wernigerode.

Political Studies

Frau Förster

Former NSDAP.

Business Chairman

Frau Kiehne

Gifted; through his connection in the west, has been able to supply Saxony-Anhalt and the zone committee with various scarce items.

d. Mecklenburg Landesverband

Chairman

Jonny Lühr

Former SED official; now represented to a certain extent in the SED Landesverband by his wife.

Executive

Frau Berger

(Geschäftsführer)

e. Saxony Landesverband

Chairman

Wilhelm Korn (5)

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f. Thuringia Landesverband

The offices are in Erfurt. Assignment of posts not available at present. (6)

g. Brandenburg Landesverband

Chairman	Dr. Koltzenburg	Since 1945 has been in two different parties, finally became CDU official. (7)
Press & Radio	Ina Laube	Lives in Schöneiche near Berlin.

5. The NDP has 156 Kreisverbände, one in every Kreis in the Soviet Zone. Each Kreis has on the average 100-150 members. The organization of Ortsverbände is still far from complete, largely because of the difficulty of finding people in the small communities who want to engage actively in politics. The total NDP membership as of November 1949 was 20,000 - 23,000.
6. Finances. The NDP's financial situation is extremely strained because its bureaucracy has been expanded out of proportion to the size of its membership. In addition to the money received from membership dues, which amount to one DM a month, each Kreisverband requires a monthly extra allowance of 600-1000 DM, usually 1000 DM. To this are added exorbitant expenses for wages, rent, car maintenance, etc. for the Landesverbände and the Hauptvorstand. Rather than outright financial support, which apparently seemed too blunt to the SMA, a large quantity of paper was placed at the disposal of the NDP for use in their publications.
7. The National Zeitung sells for five pfennig a copy and up until 6 November had yielded 150,000 DM. Since this, however, was insufficient, additional publications were instituted: the National Zeitung am Montag, a sports paper, and the Deutsche Woche, a weekly magazine. Despite these, as of 6 November 1949 not a single bill for printing had been paid the Deutsche Woche printing house, the VEB Berliner Druckhaus, and there were insufficient funds for any current expenses other than salaries.
8. As a means of providing a greater income, a special edition for the Halle area, the Hallesche National Zeitung, appearing three times a week, was to be published commencing 12 November. This paper is to include local news items and local advertisements. If the experiment in Halle is a success, the NDP will institute similar publications in all the provinces of the Soviet Zone. Additional paper for these newspapers has been approved by the SMA. The Hallesche National Zeitung was to be published in the Druckerei Ebel in Halle, which was leased by the party to avoid expropriation. The former owner of this printing concern was to continue to direct the firm.

National Zeitungsverlag G.m.b.H.
9. The National Zeitungsverlag G.m.b.H. was originally a private liability company, whose associates (Gesellschafter) included Brauns, Max Schneider, Dr. Lothar Holz, and Albrecht Albert, all of whom later became party officials. After the establishment of the NDP, the Verlag was taken over legally (lizenzmässig) by the party.

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10. National Zeitungsverlag Officials.a. Business management

Director	Alfred Günther	Became director in April 1949; formerly chief bookkeeper for the Verlag; a Major in Hitler's Army; employs several of his former acquaintances: secretary Rudi Otten and purchaser Willi Kasten, his former orderly and truck driver.
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Advertising Manager	Herbert Wolf	
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b. National Zeitung editors

Editor-in-Chief	Albert Albrecht	Former editor of the BZ (Berliner Zeitung) am Abend; suddenly removed from his position with the National Zeitung, but still lives in his Berlin apartment and is thinking of publishing another paper licensed in the Soviet Zone; his several trips to the Western Zones (Rhine-land area) have apparently been unsuccessful.
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	fnu Reinwarth	Albert's successor; member of the NDP Hauptvorstand, Economic Division.
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	fnu Berg	Editor as of 6 November 1949; allegedly from the west.
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Assistant Editor-in-Chief and Political Editor	fnu Stritzkowsky	
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Culture Editor	fnu Zander	
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Sports Editor	fnu Kuhnert	
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Picture and Copy Editor	fnu Moritz	
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Readers' Correspondence Editor	fnu Thieme	
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c. Editor of the National Zeitung: am Montag, the sports paper.

Editor-in-Chief	Dr. Lippert	At the same time publisher of the <u>Weimarer Abendpost</u> .
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d. Editors of the Deutsche Woche.

Editor-in-Chief	fnu Pfaffenbach	Member of the NDP Hauptvorstand; editor only in name.
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	fnu Dittmer	Actual editor-in-chief, but for some political reason stemming from the Nazi era, cannot hold a license officially.
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Referent	fnu Stüber	
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11. The Russian agency dealing with the National Zeitungsverlag is the Bureau of Information, Berlin-Lichtenberg, Normannstrasse. The Russian officials particularly concerned with the Verlag's affairs are the following:

Colonel Vallach (Sachbearbeiter)
First Lt. Sollupkov
First Lt. Mayushkin

12. Volume of publications. The paper contingent issued by the SMA to the NDP is as follows: National Zeitung 430 metric tons; National Zeitung am Montag 60 tons; Deutsche Woche 270 tons. Circulation of the National Zeitung is 120,000; of the National Zeitung am Montag 125,000; of the Deutsche Woche 180,000. The National Zeitung, which appears five times a week, is usually six pages long, though it once was eight pages; the National Zeitung am Montag consists of eight pages appearing once a week; the Deutsche Woche is sixteen pages long. The publications sell for five pfennig a copy, on which the two newspapers make a clear profit of 2.2 pfennig per sold copy. As of 6 November no complete calculations on Deutsche Woche profits had been made.
13. Printing. The two newspapers are printed in the SAG Druck und Papier, Schützenstrasse 90, the former VR Druckerei, where the Tägliche Rundschau is also printed. The Deutsche Woche is printed at the VEB Berliner Druckhaus, Linienstrasse, formerly the municipal council printing house.
14. Contents of the National Zeitung. The leading articles, which are based on current political events, are usually written at the last minute by various members of the NDP Hauptvorstand and the Landesverbände. All articles must be cleared by the members of the various Vorstände, which also set up definite prerequisites. The Russian Bureau of Information gives almost daily so-called "required announcements" ("Pflichtmeldungen"), which are telegraphed to the paper by the ADN or are picked up personally by the chief editor from the SMA. News from the west or from the various news agencies (presumably western) may be printed only on the express approval of the SMA. However, although in the beginning Russian control officers appeared almost daily at the National Zeitungsverlag, as of 6 November no Russian officers had attended an editorial staff meeting for several months.
15. There have often been disagreements among the editorial staff, since some members complained about the publications' policy of coloring news items, painting the news only in terms of black and white (Schwarz-Weiss-malerei). To this Albrecht always replied, "I would rather have no one buy the National Zeitung than to be imprisoned because of violation of SMA journalist regulations." The SMA also complained when the Deutsche Woche, consciously and to an intensified degree, played on the erotic sentiments of its readers in its first issues. The SMA has strictly forbidden such items in the future, alleging that they are the result of western infection.

NDP School for National Politics

16. In April 1949, the NDP established its School for National Politics in the former Seehotel in Rukow, which the party had purchased and completely renovated. Each course lasts four weeks and has 60 students from the various Kreis and Land committees. Lectures are given by members of the NDP Hauptvorstand and the Landesverbände. SED reading material is used on the pretext that no other history reading material is available in the Soviet Zone, but it has been received very coldly by the students.
17. History as taught at the school follows the Marxian line very closely. Interesting to note is the praise given to Bismarck as a progressive in the creation of social legislation and in his policy toward Russia. Schumacher and the SPD are attacked more violently than the bourgeois-reactionary circles. Defense of the Oder-Neisse line has caused dissension among the pupils.

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25X1 [] Comments:

25X1 (1) [] Max
 25X1 Schneider is political secretary of the Berlin Landesverband and also
 25X1 acting editor-in-chief of the National Zeitung, replacing Albert Albrecht.
 25X1 Schneider was then expected to be replaced as editor of the paper.
 25X1 According to the present report, however, Reinhardt succeeded Albrecht,
 25X1 and the editor as of 6 November was Berg. []

25X1 (2) His name was previously received as Dr. Joachim Peck.

(3) [] Dr. Peck
 was formerly political secretary and then was out in charge of the Press
 and Radio Division. The report also stated that ~~Dr.~~ von Ienski, former
 brigadier general, was to become vice-chairman under Underlich.

25X1 (4) Dr. Ing. Jakob Adolf Heilmann was a member of the LDP 1945-46, but left
 the LDP and tried to join the SED. []

(5) Vilmos Korn is an ex-Luftwaffe Hauptmann, ex-KPD/SED. Other Saxony NDP
 officials, as of April 1949, were as follows:

Political Training	fnu Adam	Oberregierungsrat; ex-Colonel and chief adjutant to Paulus; returned from the USSR in 1947.
Press	fnu von Frankenburg	Ex-Luftwaffe major; was a PW in USSR.
Personnel		vacant; formerly Weber, who disappeared in March 1949.
Executive (Geschäftsführer)	fnu Kreller	Businessman; no political background.

(6) According to previous reports, Gunther Ludwig is chairman of the Thuringia
 Landesverbände.

(7) Dr. Oswald Koltzenburg has previously been reported to have been a member
 of the CDU, SED, and the Volkskammer. He is a jurist and mayor of
 Magdeburg.

(8) Other Brandenburg NDP officials are:

Vice-chairman	Marianne Cossmann	Former SED functionary; attended all party schools; member Volkskammer.
Dept. Commercial Politics	fnu Haensch	Nazi mayor in East Prussia; former NSDAP.

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